

Message Text

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SUBJECT:R/V ERIN LEDDY-JONES FISH LARVAE STUDIES -
JULY-AUGUST 1975

1. R/V ERIN LEDDY-JONES (OWNED AND OPERATED BY MARINE
BIOMEDICAL INSTITUTE OF UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL
BRANCH) PLANS TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC STUDIES OF FISH
LARVAE DURING JULY AND AUGUST 1975 IN TERRITORIAL
WATERS OF COLOMBIA, NICARAGUA, HONDURAS, AND MEXICO.

2. POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO INITIATE REQUESTS FOR
CLEARANCES WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS AS FOLLOWS FOR
PERIODS INDICATED (OVERLAPS ARE INTENDED TO ALLOW
FOR LAST-MINUTE SCHEDULE CHANGES):

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COLOMBIA - 1 - 15 JULY 1975 (VESSEL IS TENTATIVELY

SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT SANTA CATALINA
HARBOR ON ISLA DE PROVIDENCIA ON
3 JULY 1975)

NICARAGUA - 10 - 20 JULY 1975 (VESSEL PLANS TO
OPERATE OFF GREATER CORN ISLAND, BUT
PLANS PORT CALL IN BLUEFIELDS ON 15 JULY)

HONDURAS - 15 JULY - 5 AUGUST 1975 (VESSEL PLANS
TO ARRIVE AT ROATAN (COXEN HOLE) ON
18 JULY AND THEN CONDUCT RESEARCH OFF
ANTHONY'S KEY)

MEXICO - 25 JULY - 5 SEPTEMBER 1975 (VESSEL PLANS
TO WORK ALONG COAST FROM 30 JULY TO
28 AUGUST WITH STOPS IN COZUMEL, PROGRESO,
CIUDAD DEL CARMEN, VERACRUZ AND TAMPICO)

3. R/V ERIN LEDDY-JONES IS 52-FOOT DIESEL-POWERED
STERN TRAWLER, EQUIPPED WITH LORAN, SINGLE SIDE-
BAND RADIO, RECORDING FATHOMETER, SIDE-SCAN SONAR
AND AUTO-PILOT. VESSEL REGISTRY NUMBER IS 561398
WITH GROSS TONNAGE OF 36.18 TONS, OVERALL LENGTH
OF 25.0 FT. AND DRAFT OF 6 FEET. RADIO CALL SIGN
IS WYU 8904. VESSEL HAS VOICE COMMUNICATIONS ON
FM CHANNELS 6, 16, 26, 28, 13 AND 14. SHIP'S
CAPTAIN IS ROBERT A. COWART AND VESSEL CARRIES
CREW OF FOUR AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 7. CHIEF
SCIENTIST IS DR. WILLIAM H. HULET.

4. PLANNED RESEARCH IS INTENDED TO STUDY LARVAL
STAGES OF CERTAIN PRIMITIVE BONY FISHES (SUCH AS
TARPONS, BONEFISHES, TRUE EELS AND SPINY EELS).
LARVAE OF THESE FISHES ARE DESCRIBED AS LEPTO-
CEPHALOUS (MEANING SMALL-HEADED). LITTLE IS KNOWN
ABOUT LIFE CYCLES OR DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH LARVAE
IN CARIBBEAN. OBJECTIVES OF THIS RESEARCH ARE TO
(1) DETERMINE DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE AND SEASONAL
VARIATION OF LEPTOCEPHALOUS LARVAE; (2) IDENTIFY
FOR TAXONOMICAL PURPOSES INDIVIDUAL SPECIES OF
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SUCH LARVAE AND ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR SUCH TAXO-
NOMICAL IDENTIFICATION; (3) TO EXAMINE OSMOSIS
BETWEEN THESE LARVAE AND EXTERNAL SEA WATER
ENVIRONMENT; AND (4) DETERMINE HOW SUCH LARVAE
RECEIVE FOOD FROM THIS ENVIRONMENT. DETAILED
DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED RESEARCH FOLLOWS VIA
AIRGRAM TO EACH POST.

5. SPACE ABOARD VESSEL IS EXTREMELY LIMITED, BUT ROOM WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ONE SCIENTIST FROM EACH HOST COUNTRY TO PARTICIPATE IN WORK OFF HIS COUNTRY'S COAST. DR. HULET HAS ALREADY MADE PRELIMINARY CONTACTS WITH SR. FRANCISCIO PALACIO IN COLOMBIA (FORMERLY OF ESCUELA NAVAL) AND WITH M. EN C. CESAR FLORES COTO IN MEXICO (DIRECTOR-CENTRO DE PRECLASSIFACION OCEANICA DE MEXICO). COPIES OF RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE ARE INCLUDED WITH ABOVE-CITED AIRGRAMS. KISSINGER

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